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Fatum Holdings N.V. Acquires Royal & Sun Alliance (Antilles) N.V.



L.- r.: Alejandro Nino of Royal & Sun Alliance (Antilles), Steven Martina of FATUM and Lionel 'Chicu' Capriles of Maduro & Curiel's Bank.

WILLEMSTAD -- Fatum Holdings N.V. (Fatum), announced on December 19th, 2012 the acquisition by Fatum of 100% of the issued share capital of Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance (Antilles) N.V. from the RSA Group and Maduro & Curiel's Bank (MCB). The financial terms of the transaction are not being disclosed at this time. The successful completion of this transaction is subject to all necessary approvals from the Regulators in Curacao, Sint Maarten, Aruba and the islands of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba.

RSA (Antilles) is a major provider of General Insurance products and services in the Dutch Caribbean, and is jointly owned by the RSA Group, one of the world's leading multinational listed insurance groups with major operations in the UK, Scandinavia, Canada, Ireland, Asia, Central & Eastern Europe, Middle East and Latin America, and MCB, the largest commercial bank in the Dutch Caribbean.

According to Fatum's President & Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Steven Martina, "The acquisition of RSA Antilles further strengthens and endorses Fatum's position as the

leading provider of General Insurance products and services in the Dutch Caribbean, which is key to the strategic objectives of Fatum. This acquisition will consolidate our position as the leading company in the general insurance sector, a position with which we are very comfortable."

Fatum is fully owned by Guardian Holdings Limited (GHL), the largest Financial Services and Insurance Group serving the English & Dutch Caribbean. In addition to Fatum, GHL also owns Guardian General Insurance Company Limited (GGIL), which itself is the largest indigenous general insurance company serving the English Caribbean. According to GHL Group Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Jeffrey Mack "with the addition of RSA Antilles to our general insurance portfolio, and the acquisition last month of Globe Insurance Company in Jamaica, GHL now has an unassailable market leadership position in the general insurance sectors across all of our core markets, fulfilling our strategic objective and demonstrating our confidence and commitment to the people and economies of the Caribbean".

Aruba Government announces preferential policy

ORANJESTAD -- The government of Aruba has published a bulletin informing the community concerning a series of decrees to be enacted pursuant to deliberations and decisions resulting from the National Social Dialogues held during the period August 7 to 10, 2012 and August 21 to November 9, 2012. The government is intent on introducing these decisions as of January 1st, 2013. Hence, in anticipation of the formal decrees pertaining to the "reparatietoeslag" (adjustment stipend), income tax tariff, and the vehicle and boat tax ordinance, the following, so-called, Preferential Policy ("Begunstigend beleid") will take effect as of January 1, 2013:

The Cost of living adjustment Stipend:

Workers representatives and the government decided in the Social Dialogues that as an impulse for buying power for workers in the private sector they will increase the cost of living adjustment stipend by Fls.25 per month for those earning at least the minimum wage (Afls.1.604,60) or at least less than Afls.2.500 per month. For those earning only the old-age pension with no other source of income, the cost of living adjustment stipend will increase from Afls.50 per month to Afls.100 per month. This will be made effective as of January 1st, 2013.

Income Taxes:

Old Age Deduction: Pursuant to decisions arrived at in the National Dialogues, the government has decided to, as a means of improving the buying power, and as a compensation for the loss of buying power, to introduce an additional deduction of



Minister of Finance, Communications, Utilities and Energy, Mike de Meza

Afls.3.500 for pensioners receiving only the AOV income and have an income of maximum Afls.35.000. This measure is to become effective as of January 1st, 2013.

Special Tariff:

With respect to the current economic situation, the government has decided to reduce the tariff for income taxes for those receiving workers' terminations or for the purchase of pension plans to 15%. Hence, as of January 1st, 2013, the income tax for workers termination payouts will carry a tariff of 15%.

Import Duties:

Pursuant to decisions arrived at in the National Dialogues; the government has decided that in an effort to stimulate the use of more efficient energy apparatus, to introduce several fiscal benefits. Hence, as of January 1st, 2013, the following goods will be reduced to a 2% import duty tariff:

1. Machines and apparatus to regulate climate manufactured with an inverter and an 18 SEER rating or higher

with proof that the energy use is AHRI certified

Other cooling equipment of the Variable Refrigeration Flow (VRF) system and the Variable Speed Compressor (VSC) system.

2. Refrigerators and Freezers:

a. All of the equipment which prove to be energy efficient and bare the ENERGY STAR label

b. Refrigerators for household use which prove to be energy efficient and bare the ENERGY STAR label

c. Freezers with a capacity of 800 liters and freezers of the 900 liter capacity which prove to be energy efficient and bare the ENERGY STAR label

d. All other cooling or freezing furniture which prove to be energy efficient and bare the ENERGY Star label

3. Boilers and other water equipment operating on solar energy and other apparatus operating on solar power

4. Machines with the capacity of more than 10kg as dryers, to include fully automated dryers equipped with built-in centrifuge and machines with a capacity of 10kg such as electric dryers which prove to be energy efficient and bare the ENERGY STAR label

5. Compact Fluorescent lamps, "CFL" and LED lamps with a cos phi of 0.85 or higher

Vehicle and Boat taxes:

In conformity with the objectives and intention of the government to make Aruba fully "green" by 2020, the decision has been made to introduce a series of initiatives to stimulate the further reduction of fossil fuel use.

Continued on page 3



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Aruba Government announces preferential policy

Continued from page 2

Hence, the decision is to introduce reduced tariffs for motor vehicle registration (number plates) for certain types of vehicles which obviously are in the trend of better fuel consumption and energy efficiency, namely:

1. Motor vehicles with an electric powered engine
Afls. 75,-
2. Motor vehicles with a hybrid engine
Afls. 150,-
3. Motor vehicles with a mixture of gasoline and maximum 85% ethanol (flex fuel)
Afls. 225,-

All of these measures will be enacted as of January 1st 2013 in anticipation of the forthcoming formal decrees.

Search for plane with Missoni scion intensifies

Continued from page 1

The plane was carrying Vittorio Missoni -- the son of the eponymous fashion label's founder Ottavio Missoni -- and his wife Maurizia Castiglioni,

another Italian couple and two Venezuelan crew members.

Missoni runs the company known for its knitwear and iconic zigzag patterns with his

siblings Luca and Angela. Vittorio is marketing director, his brother Luca is technical director and his sister Angela is the designer.

Shortly after news broke of his brother's disappearance, Luca went to Venezuela to get information first hand.

Vittorio's parents and sister

remained in the family home, according to Italian media.

Venezuelan interior ministry spokesman Jorge Galindo identified the other passengers as Guido Foresti and Elda Scalvenzi. Pilot Hernan Merchan and copilot Juan Carlos Ferre Milano were also on board.

The Italian foreign ministry would only confirm that four Italian citizens had gone missing in Venezuela, without identifying them.

A similar disappearance took place exactly five years ago, on January 4, 2008.

At the time, a plane carrying 14 people, including eight Italians, went missing in the same area as it flew from Caracas to Los Roques. No trace of the aircraft or its passengers was ever found.

The Missoni fashion house was founded in 1953 by Ottavio Missoni and his wife Rosita. It now sells ready-to-wear attire for men, women and children, as well as haute couture and perfume.

Missoni has also created auto interiors for Mazda cars and designed interiors for two luxury hotels, in collaboration with the Rezidor Hotel Group.

Los Roques is an archipelago of 350 islands that attracts tourists from all over the world for its deep turquoise sea and the large number of exotic species that live there.

Twenty young people to join the KIA team



On January 3rd, during a short ceremony, the Minister of Justice, Arthur Dowers, presented 20 young people who are to join the team of justice on Aruba. These young people, who began their course of training last Wednesday, after completing the rigorous course will become members of the security

team at KIA (local prison). The Minister emphasized how important their personal integrity is to meet the challenge ahead of them.

According to Dowers, many have the desire to get the opportunity they received. But they are now part of a group that was meticulously

selected. He shared that the job of a prison guard is one with great responsibility and an admirable profession because they will be contributing to the process of justice which also includes the rehabilitation of detainees.

He implored the youngsters to be aware of the pos-

sibility to be manipulated by the inmates and to never allow their integrity to falter as this would seriously jeopardize their career forever. He encouraged them to take the opportunity they have and make good use of it to grow in their career in our justice system at KIA.

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Light showers can't douse the high spirits of Carnival 59 Torch Parade!



Aruba's Meteorological Office sent out a warning on Friday evening of a wet weekend to come, and the skies decided to deliver their aqueous bounty just as costumed revelers began making their way down L.G. Smith Boulevard for the first major parade of Carnival 59, on Saturday evening, January 5.

The Torch Parade is an ebullient affair, with casual costumes revealing the individual creativity of participants. It is remarkable as to what can be achieved with a logo tee shirt and a few leftover holiday lights!

Eight carnival groups participated, beginning with Cham-



pagne, followed by Royal, T.O.B., Dushi, Majestic, Pleasers and Teasers, OPC and bringing up the rear, XC-Lanz Carnival Group. Regally residing over all was Aruba's 58th Carnival Queen, Lynette Do Nascimento, of Champagne Carnival Group, who will turn over her crown to the new queen on February 1. Over 6400 participants made their way from the west end of Oranjestad to the east side. Intermittent showers did not dampen the energy or extinguish the brilliance so the evening.

The Torch Parade heralds weeks of parades, parties, con-



tests and queen elections which will end at midnight on February 12, with the occurrence of Ash Wednesday. Until then it will six hectic weeks of sumptuous costumes, lively music and dancing in the streets, as islanders celebrate life and

their greatest Caribbean cultural event.

Rosalie Klein



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Paseo Herencia installs Sarah-Quita Offringa . . .

Continued from page 1



Sarah-Quita with Minister Visser and proud parents Esther and Ruud

Though pundits had predicted she would come in third that year, she proved every year since then that she is every inch (and being the tallest person in the room that is a lot of inches,) a champion. She has successfully defended her title as PWA Women's World Freestyle Champion for four consecutive years. In 2011, she proved to be the "fastest woman on the water" by also claiming the Women's World

Slalom Champion title as well.

Despite being a supreme athlete, Sarah-Quita has always been a sweet, humble girl, and very conscious of her place as a role model for other Aruban youth. For this reason, she has been dedicated to her studies, and for the last two and a half years is pursuing a degree in Science and Innovation Management at the University of Utrecht, Holland. She will



With Oma Dorothy

obtain it shortly, and intends to study and gain a Masters degree, within the intention of returning to assist Aruba in achieving the sustainability practices that will make it a truly "green" island.

For all these reasons, Paseo Herencia General Manager Valerie Pietersz-Camacho and Marketing Manager Candy Rasmijn were exceptionally proud to host



With Valerie Pietersz (l.) and Candy Rasmijn (r.) of Paseo Herencia

the unveiling ceremony adding Sarah-Quita to their "Wall of Fame." Aruba's Minister of Public Health and Sport, Dr. Richard Visser was very pleased to perform the unveiling with Parliamentarian Donny Rasmijn, in the presence of her proud parents, Esther and Ruud, Oma Dorothy, and a host of admiring friends and fellow wind-surfers.

"We would have done this much sooner," claimed Va-

lerie Pietersz-Camacho, "but, unfortunately, Sarah-Quita's busy schedule of competition and schooling just didn't make it possible to do while she was here."

Despite all the awards and honors she has received internationally, Sarah-Quita admitted the recognition of her fellow Arubans is always something that particularly touches her heart.

Rosalie Klein

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Brazil announces 'audit' to curb mad cow fears

BRASILIA (AFP) - Brazil's agriculture ministry announced yesterday a top-to-bottom "audit" of its cattle industry as the world's top beef exporters tries to stave off a growing crisis over a case of mad cow disease.

"We will review all procedures to be sure we are doing everything necessary," Celio Porto, international relations secretary for the agriculture minister, told the Folha de Sao Paulo newspaper.

"It's like an audit by the ministry of agriculture on state services," Porto said, adding that it would follow guidelines set by the Paris-based World Organization for Animal

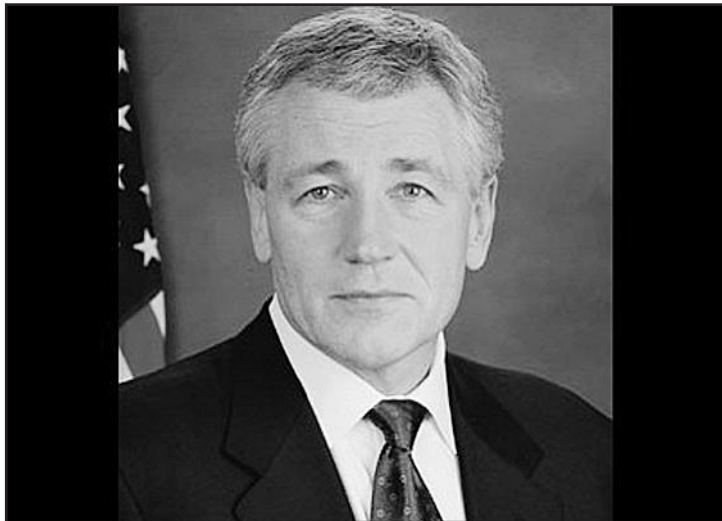
Health.

Japan, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan and China have suspended all beef imports from Brazil in connection with an atypical case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) that was confirmed last month in an animal that died in 2010 in the southern state of Parana.

Five other countries have imposed some restrictions on beef over the same case.

Brazilian officials insist the case poses no risk whatsoever to public health or to animal hygiene and have not ruled out complaining to the World Trade Organization over the restrictions.

Obama set to nominate Hagel as defense secretary



WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama is expected to nominate Chuck Hagel as his new defense secretary today and Republicans are signaling a fierce confirmation fight even though he is one of their own.

Obama has decided he wants the 66-year-old former Republican senator to succeed Leon Panetta at the Pentagon and will make his announcement today, a Democratic aide told AFP, confirming earlier US media reports.

Obama is also expected to announce who he has chosen to replace David Petraeus at the helm of the CIA, with ac-

ting director Michael Morell and counter-terrorism adviser John Brennan seen as the frontrunners, CNN said.

Despite the fact that Hagel is a fellow Republican, party heavyweights scenting blood in bitterly-divided Washington have accused him of hostility toward Israel and naivety on Iran, auguring a tough nomination process ahead.

If confirmed by the Senate as Pentagon chief, Hagel will have to manage major cuts to military spending while wrapping up the US war effort in Afghanistan and preparing for worst-case scenarios in Iran or Syria.

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Venezuela lawmakers elect Chavez ally as Assembly chief

CARACAS - Venezuelan lawmakers re-elected a staunch ally of Hugo Chavez to head the National Assembly on Saturday, putting him in line to be caretaker president if the socialist leader does not recover from cancer surgery.

By choosing the incumbent, Diosdado Cabello, the "Chavista"-dominated legislature cemented the combative ex-soldier's position as the third most powerful figure in the government, after Chavez and Vice President Nicolas Maduro.

"As a patriot ... I swear to be supremely loyal in everything I do, to defend the fatherland, its institutions, and this beautiful revolution led by our Comandante Hugo Chavez," Cabello said as he took the oath, his hand on the constitution.

He had earlier warned opposition politicians against attempting to use the National Assembly to "conspire" against the people, saying they would be "destroyed" if they tried.

Thousands of the presi-



Venezuelan Vice President Nicolas Maduro (L) listens to National Assembly President Diosdado Cabello during the assembly inauguration in Caracas.

dent's red-clad supporters gathered outside parliament hours before the vote, many chanting: "We are all Chavez! Our comandante will be well! He will return!"

If Chavez had to step down, or died, Cabello would take over the running of the country as Assembly president and a new election would be organized within 30 days. Chavez's heir apparent, Maduro, would be the ruling Socialist Party

candidate.

Chavez, who was diagnosed with an undisclosed form of cancer in his pelvic area in mid-2011, has not been seen in public nor heard from in more than three weeks.

Officials say the 58-year-old is in delicate condition and has suffered multiple complications since the December 11 surgery, including unexpected bleeding and severe respiratory problems.

Report: Obama considers broad arms sales restrictions

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The administration of President Barack Obama is considering a broad array of measures to curb the nation's gun violence, including more than just a reinstatement of a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition, The Washington Post reported yesterday.

Citing multiple people involved in the administration's discussions, the newspaper said a working group led by Vice President Biden is seriously considering several measures: universal background checks for firearm buyers, tracking the movement and sale of weapons through a national database, strengthening

mental health checks, and stiffening penalties for carrying guns near schools or giving them to minors.

To push these measures through Congress, the White House is developing strategies to work around the National Rifle Association, the report said. According to the paper, they could include rallying support from Wal-Mart and other gun retailers as well as regular contact with advisers to New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, an outspoken gun-control advocate.

The proposals are a response to last month's tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut, the site of one of the worst school

shootings in US history.

On December 14, a 20-year-old disturbed local man killed his mother in their Newtown home before embarking on a horrific shooting spree at the Sandy Hook Elementary School and shooting dead 20 six- and seven-year-old children and six adults with a military-style assault rifle before taking his own life with a handgun as police closed in.

However, the NRA, the most powerful gun lobby in the United States, stands firm against any additional restraints on firearms and ammunition sales -- despite a national outcry in the wake of the Sandy Hook school massacre.

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Mainstreet Downtown Aruba

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Presidency: Doctors say Mandela has 'recovered'

CAPE TOWN (AFP) - Nelson Mandela has "recovered" from recent surgery and a lung infection, a health scare that had put South Africa on edge as the anti-apartheid hero spent nearly three weeks in hospital, the presidency said yesterday, citing his doctors.

The 94-year-old Mandela "has recovered from his surgical procedure and the lung infection, his doctors said today," said a statement from President Jacob Zuma's office.

"The medical (examination) said president Mandela has made steady progress and that clinically, he continues to improve," it said.

The revered leader has been recuperating at his Johannesburg home since he was discharged from hospital the day after Christmas, which was the longest he had been hospitalised since his release from 27 years of apartheid prison in 1990.

"He had undergone an operation to remove gallstones last month and was also troubled by a recurring lung infection," said the presidency.

"He continues to receive high care at his Houghton home and his daily routine is being gradually re-established."

Peace talks but no end in sight to N.Ireland violence



BELFAST: AFP photo shows loyalists, flying British Union Flags, marching outside Belfast City Hall in protest over Belfast city council's decision to restrict the number of days the Union Flag that can be flown over the city hall in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Politicians and church leaders in Northern Ireland held talks yesterday in a bid to stop the violence over the flying of the British flag. After three nights of rioting and attacks on police, Northern Ireland's chief police officer Matt Baggott said 52 officers had been injured, but he warned his force would deal firmly with the violence for as long as it was necessary. Police used water cannon and fired baton rounds in Belfast yesterday as they confronted more than 100 loyalist protesters who were throwing fireworks and bricks.

SAfrica authorises 400 soldiers for Central African Republic

BANGUI, Central African Republic (AFP) - South Africa has authorised the sending of 400 soldiers to Central African Republic (CAR) where government and regional troops are battling a rebel insurgency.

"President Jacob Zuma has authorised the employment of 400 South African National Defence Force personnel to the Central African Republic, to render support in fulfilment of an international obligation of the Republic of South Africa towards the CAR," Zuma's office said in a statement.

Their mandate is through March 2018, it added.

The South African presidency said the soldiers would help with capacity-building of the Central African Republic defence force.

It "will also assist CAR with the planning and implementation of the disarmament, demobilisation and re-integration processes", it added.

Abbas orders official use of 'State of Palestine'

RAMALLAH, Palestinian Territories (AFP) - Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas yesterday gave orders for work to begin on new passports, ID cards, drivers' licences and stamps reading "State of Palestine," official media said.

The decree, carried by the official WAFA news agency, came in the wake of the Palestinians' successful bid late last year for non-member observer state status at the United Nations over intense Israeli and US opposition.

Abbas said the changed language on official documents would help strengthen the Palestinian state "on the ground and build its institutions... and its sovereignty over the its land."

Already last week, he ordered the foreign ministry and embassies around the world to

begin using "State of Palestine" in official correspondence.

Previously, official documents issued by Abbas's government, including passports and other identification documents, had been labelled as issued by the Palestinian Authority, which he heads.

Israel has criticised the Palestinians for their successful bid for enhanced UN status, saying Palestinian statehood can only be achieved through bilateral talks with the Jewish state.

The Israeli foreign ministry declined to comment on the latest Palestinian move.

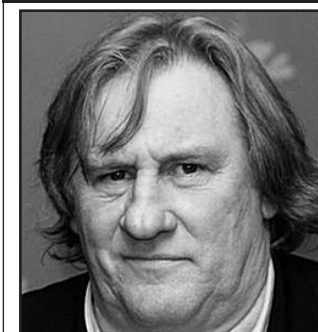
The Palestinians say the UN upgrade will strengthen their position in negotiations with Israel and is a complement to any future talks.

tempts by the rebels to infiltrate.

With the Seleka rebel coalition threatening to march on Bangui, Gabon, Congo and Cameroon in recent days have each sent 120 troops, according to a source with the multinational African peacekeeping force FOMAC.

They will join 400 Chadian soldiers already deployed to protect Damara, the last town on the rebels' road to Bangui, the source said.

Depardieu gets Russian passport amid French tax row



MOSCOW (AFP) - French actor Gerard Depardieu, who has threatened to quit his homeland to avoid higher taxes, has received a Russian passport and yesterday an offer of residence in a central Russia region known for Stalin-era Gulag labour camps.

The former Oscar nominee travelled to snow-covered Mordovia after he met Saturday with strongman President Vladimir Putin.

Depardieu was seen on Russian television being greeted with folk songs and showing off his new red passport to his Mordovia hosts in Saransk, the regional capital of around 300,000 people located about 600 kilometers (370 miles) southeast of Moscow.

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SCI-TECH

China 'biggest' nuclear plant construction resumes

BEIJING (AFP) - China has resumed construction on a "fourth generation" nuclear power plant, suspended after the 2011 Fukushima disaster, which will be its biggest-ever nuclear facility, state media said Saturday.

Construction on the coastal Shidao Bay nuclear plant in Rongcheng, a city in eastern China's Shandong province, resumed last month, the state-run China Internet Information Center reported, adding that the plant is "China's biggest planned nuclear project".

The plant, which will be cooled by high temperature gas, will become "the world's first successfully commercialised fourth generation nuclear technology demonstration project", the

report said.

It is designed to be safer and cuts down on costs, the report quoted a spokesman from the China Huaneng Group, the biggest investor in the plant, as saying.

The plant, expected to begin supplying electricity to the grid by 2017, will have a final generating capacity of 6,600 megawatts, the report said, adding initial investment in the project will be three billion yuan (\$480 million).

The Shidao Bay plant "has been developed and designed solely by Chinese researchers", the state-run China Radio International said, quoting a China Huaneng Group researcher as saying the company hopes to export the design.

China in October lifted a ban on new nuclear power stations imposed in 2011 after Japan's Fukushima nuclear plant meltdown, when the facility was struck by a tsunami, and will allow construction of a "small number" of coastal nuclear power plants, according to an official report.

Construction on the Shidao Bay plant began in 2011 but was suspended in the wake of the Fukushima crisis, the China Internet Information Center said.

There are 15 operational commercial nuclear reactors in China, which has ambitious plans to expand its nuclear industry, with 27 reactors under construction near coastal areas, according to the World Nuclear Association.

China's Ministry of Environmental Protection said in a report in October that the country's nuclear safety situation was "not optimistic", and that the use of differing types of reactors in Chinese plants made the sector "difficult to manage".

The Last Great Polar Challenge



SOUTH AFRICA, Cape Town : Photo depicts Cape Town. Explorers Sir Ranulph Fiennes (L) and Anton Bowring before starting off their expedition to complete the last great polar challenge - crossing Antarctica in winter - on January 6, 2013, in Cape Town. Fiennes and Bowring are leading a team of explorers in this journey to cross Antarctica in the winter. Their attempt aims at raising 10 million US dollars for Seeing is Believing, an organization tackling avoidable blindness. The challenge will take six months - mostly in complete darkness - for more than 2,000 miles. In total, the team will spend an estimated 273 days on the ice, and once under way, travel at an average of 35km per day. The team of six men, including a doctor and two technicians, could face temperatures as low as minus 90C (-130F) during expedition, which has been called The Coldest Journey.

Google maps New Year's resolutions around the world



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Google is letting people peg their New Year's resolutions to an online map and see what promises others around the world have set out to keep in 2013.

By Friday, a resolutions section at the California Internet giant's 2012 Zeitgeist website had logged half a million entries, more than a third of which involved desires to love or be loved.

Vows to improve personal health were rife in the United States, while Russia was at the head of the class when it came to education-focused resolutions, according to Google.

Pledges mapped at google.com/zeitgeist/2012/re

solutions were divided into categories that included love, health, finance, career, education and family.

One person in Brazil, for example, wants to "find a woman for dating", while another in Japan wants to "work three times faster."

It can take 24 to 48 hours for the resolution to appear, so be patient.



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10. "It'll all come out in the"
14. Pat or Debby
15. Smell (suspect)
16. Actress Chase
17. Revolutionary 1777 battle site
19. Reclined
20. Collection
21. Put an edge on
22. Losing color
24. Peat sources
25. Nimble
26. Magna needs
28. Quilters' needs
32. "Renegade"

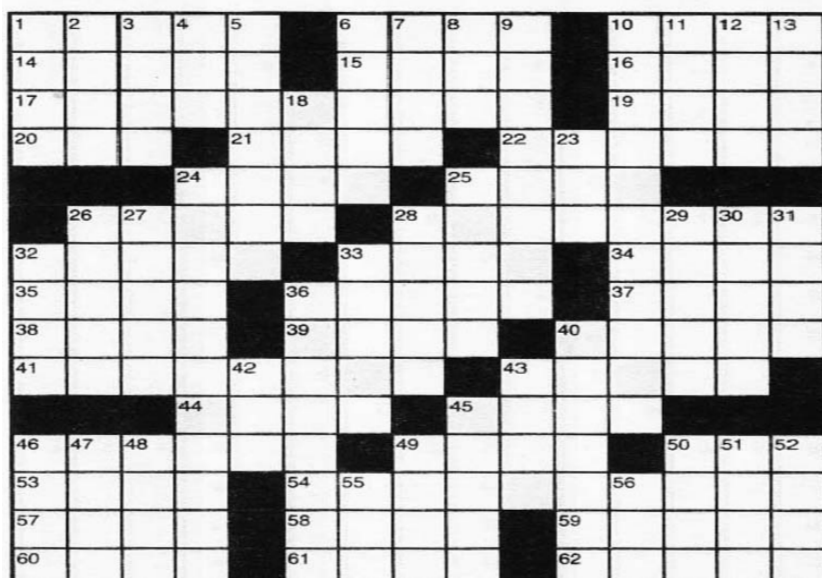
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34. Assigned part
35. College subj.
36. Fork time
37. Stratford's river
38. Part of a wall frame
39. Assess
40. Unskilled
41. Very energetic
43. Author Gide
44. Siestas
45. Fall shade
46. Rocky of filmdom
49. Animal fat
50. Debtor's chit
53. Stead
54. They sang the "Friends" theme song, with "The"
57. Fragrance
58. Confederate

DOWN

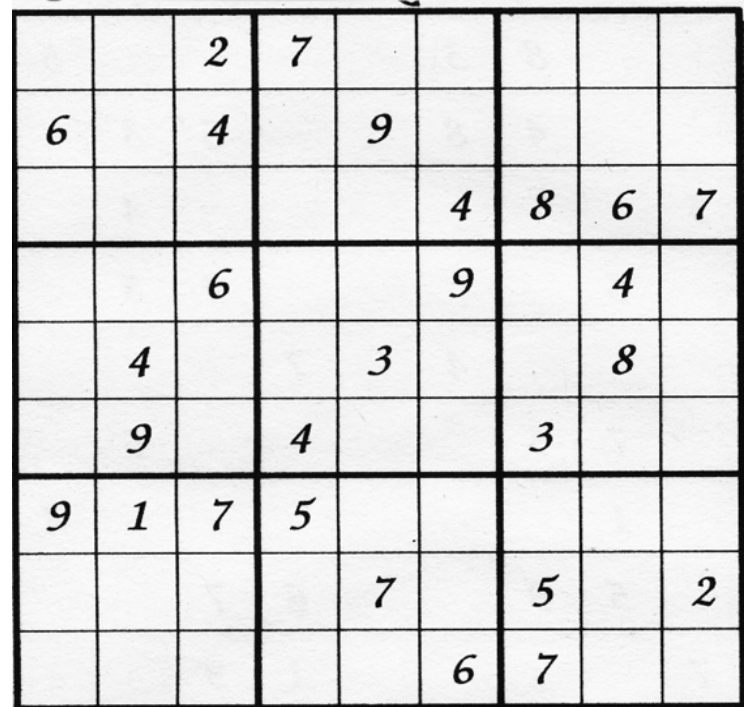
1. Wanes
2. Learning
3. Mountain climber
4. Actress Jillian
5. Cinnamon penny candies
6. over (acts the sycophant)
7. One of five Greats
8. Rock's Steely
9. Pacing

59. "Cape Fear" star
60. Astronauts' quaff
61. Changes the color of
62. Kojak and Huxtable

10. Former West German chancellor
11. Asian range
12. Abrade
13. Work in a gallery
18. Mystical exercise
23. Octopus feature
24. Bach's "Concertos"
25. Aussie film about a pianist
26. Certain succulents
27. "My Cherie"
28. Moves briskly
29. Beau
30. Marry impulsively
31. Mailed
32. "we forget"
33. "Green, Green of Home"
36. Like a good Scout
40. Like some oatmeal
42. -tse
43. Hungarian violinist
45. Country bumpkins
46. Speck
47. 1953 Loren film
48. Uris or Spinks
49. Captain Hook's right hand
50. Unemployed
51. Producer Preminger
52. Puts into practice
55. Country rocker Joe
56. Japanese drama



STAMP IT!



SOLUTION

8	1	4	9	6	5	2	3	7
2	6	5	1	4	8	9	7	3
7	9	8	2	5	1	6	3	4
9	4	2	5	7	1	6	8	3
1	8	6	4	9	5	7	2	3
5	7	2	6	8	1	9	4	3
4	9	8	7	1	2	6	5	3
6	2	1	5	6	8	7	9	4
3	5	7	9	4	2	8	1	6

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



O'stad: 'Serv. Noord' - S.N.: Serv. Seroe Preto'

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Mon.-Thu. 9 p.m.-12 midn.
Fri.-Sun. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

CAS MARIE

Alzheimer's Day
Care Center
Tel: 5696910

Important
Telephone
Numbers

HOSPITAL

Horacio Oduber Hospital
Tel. 587-4300

EMERGENCY


Telephone 911
POLICE HDQS
Telephone 100

TAXI

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587-1998, 587-5900
In Oranjestad:
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582-5447
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SATURDAY'S Crossword Answer



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Current as of:
01/06/2013

	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.82
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.90
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	193.02
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	234.08
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	27.70
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	31.63
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	32.31
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84	203.62

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FINANCE

Billionaires seek 2013 global advantage

NEW YORK — The richest people on the planet got even richer in 2012, adding \$241 billion to their collective net worth, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, a daily ranking of the world's 100 wealthiest individuals.

The aggregate net worth of the world's top moguls stood at \$1.9 trillion at the market close on Dec. 31, according to the index.

Retail and telecommunications fortunes surged about 20 percent on average during the year. Of the 100 people who appeared on the final ranking of 2012, only 16 registered a net loss for the 12-month period.

The Bloomberg Billionaires Index takes measure of the world's wealthiest people based on market and economic changes and Bloomberg News reporting. Each net worth figure is updated every business day at 5:30 p.m. in New York. The valuations are listed in U.S. dollars.

TOP FIVE WORLDWIDE



Carlos Slim

1. Carlos Slim. Slim, the telecommunications magnate who controls Mexico's America Movil SAB, maintained his title as the richest person on Earth for the entire year. The 72-year-old's net worth rose \$13.4 billion — or 21.6 percent — through Dec. 31, making him the second-biggest gainer by dollars.



Bill Gates

2. Bill Gates. U.S. software mogul Gates, 57, ranks second on the list, trailing Slim by \$12.5 billion. The Microsoft co-founder added \$7 billion to his net worth as shares of the Redmond-based company rose 2.9 percent. Microsoft stock accounts for less than 20 percent of the billionaire's fortune.

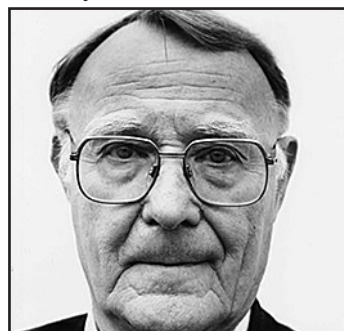


Amancio Ortega

3. Amancio Ortega, the Spaniard who founded retailer Inditex SA, was the year's biggest gainer. The 76-year-old tycoon's fortune increased \$22.2 billion to \$57.5 billion, according to the index, as shares of Inditex, operator of the Zara clothing chain, rose 66.7 percent.

4. Warren Buffett. Warren Buffett, 82, lost his title as the world's third-richest man to Ortega on Aug. 6. The Berkshire Hathaway chairman gained \$5.1 billion during the year, even after donating 22.3 million Berkshire Class B shares in July to charity. The billionaire, who has pledged to give away most of his fortune,

spent much of the year pressing for higher taxes on the wealthy.



Ingvar Kamprad

5. Ingvar Kamprad. The IKEA founder, 86, is the world's fifth-richest person with a \$42.9 billion fortune. The complex ownership structure behind IKEA, the world's largest furniture retailer, became more transparent in August after IKEA's franchisor published its financial performance publicly for the first time. His net worth rose 16.6 percent in 2012.

Report: Air France-KLM in advanced talks for Alitalia

ROME — Franco-Dutch carrier Air France-KLM (AF.PA) is in "advanced" talks to take control of Italy's flagship airline Alitalia by the summer, Rome's Messaggero newspaper reported yesterday without citing its sources.

Alitalia is owned by CAI, a consortium of investors that bought the then-bankrupt airline in 2008. CAI is already partly owned by Air France-KLM. Alitalia's shareholders can exercise options to trade their shares when a lock-up period ends on January 12.

In May, Air France said it would probably wait until at least 2014 before using its option to take control of Alitalia, in which it has held 25 percent

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The top Republican in the US Senate warned President Barack Obama yesterday that he is willing to use the debt ceiling as "leverage" to end the administration's "massive spending addiction."

Mitch McConnell's remarks set the stage for another round of high-stakes political brinksmanship over the US economy just as jittery markets recover from the tense end-of-year drama over the so-called "fiscal cliff."

Obama has warned Republicans against playing a "dangerous game" with the debt ceiling, arguing that raising the \$16.4 trillion borrowing limit to pay the country's outstanding bills should not be a political football.

If Congress fails to clinch a deal to allow more government borrowing, it risks causing the United States to default on its bills and financial obligations.

since January 2009.

Air France-KLM has offered shareholders a 20 percent premium on what they paid for the airline in 2008, the newspaper said, probably in Air France-KLM shares. CAI paid a little more than 1 billion euros to take over Alitalia five years ago.

An Air France-KLM spokesman in Paris declined to comment on the report. Officials at Alitalia did not answer repeated phone calls.

But four-time Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, who scuppered Air France-KLM's last attempt to buy Alitalia, said he was still against the airline's sale.

Republicans are smarting after accepting a deal to avert the fiscal cliff that imposed a tax hike on the richest Americans — a major concession for conservatives — but delayed any move on the spending cuts they sought.

The measure, signed into law by Obama on Wednesday, dodged across-the-board tax hikes and automatic spending cuts that had threatened to unleash economic turmoil and perhaps drive America back into recession.

Republicans will have several more chances to try to get the spending cuts they desire and are already demanding concessions from Democrats on expenditures in return for allowing the debt ceiling to rise.

"What I'm willing to say is, if the president won't lead us here in the direction of reducing this massive spending addiction that we have, then we have to use whatever leverage we have," McConnell told CBS's "Face the Nation" program.

"And there are some examples of leverage coming along and the debt ceiling is one of them."

Obama insists he will not allow a repeat of the 2011 crisis, when the United States came perilously close to defaulting on its debts as Republicans sought deep spending cuts in return for more government borrowing.

The United States hit the debt ceiling again on December 31.

The Treasury said it would adjust its handling of civil service pensions to keep operating under the borrowing limit without slashing federal spending, suggesting it could do this at least until the end of February.

Design with a difference:

Parsons school comes to Paris

PARIS (AFP) - From Marc Jacobs to Alexander Wang, star alumni of New York's Parsons design school have long made inroads in Paris. But now the faculty is going a step further, opening a full-fledged branch in the world capital of fashion.

Many of the industry's most sought-after names learned the ropes at Parsons The New School for Design, from Tom Ford to Proenza Schouler's Lázaro Hernández and Jack McCollough, Jacobs or Wang, newly named at the house of Balenciaga.

Joel Towers, Executive Dean of Parsons, says the school learned how to use New York city as a "laboratory", and hopes to achieve the same in Paris, picked as a European hub of art, craft and heritage.

Paris is destined to become one of a network of teaching hubs, with Parsons programmes in the pipeline for Mumbai, Shanghai, and Latin America, allowing an international student corps to draw on the resources of each.

"We are not just running after where the money is -- we are not going to Qatar and Abu Dhabi," said Tim Marshall, Provost of the New School university to which Parsons belongs.

"These are global cities, cities that make sense as a comparative set."

"It's also about the movement of ideas," added Towers.

The century-old New York school first set up shop in Paris in 1921, but ties with its French offshoot dwindled over time to little more than a licensing deal, now expired.

"We want a much more embedded school, integrated into the local culture, that is drawing on the real design talent here," explained Marshall.

From September, Parsons Paris will welcome 150 students to its new premises a stone's throw from the Louvre, delivering US undergraduate and graduate degrees in fashion design, design management or history of the decorative arts.

Parsons' students in Paris will pay around 38,000 dollars (about 30,000 euros) per annum.

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Bin Laden film torture is fiction: ex-CIA official

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Bloody interrogations like those depicted in Hollywood's take on the hunt for Osama bin Laden "Zero Dark Thirty" never really happened, according to the former CIA official who ran such programs.

"The truth is that no one was bloodied or beaten in the enhanced interrogation program which I supervised from 2002 to 2007," Jose Rodriguez wrote in a Washington Post article headlined: "Sorry Hollywood. What we did wasn't torture."

The former CIA official was weighing in on the controversy over the depiction of US intelligence practices in "Zero Dark Thirty," which hits most US theaters on January 11.

Directed by Academy Award-winning Kathryn Bigelow, the movie tells the story of the decade-long search for Bin Laden after the 9/11 attacks, climaxing in the dramatic, deadly raid in May 2011 on his hideout in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

Already generating major Oscar buzz, "Zero Dark Thirty" begins with a scene showing the torture of detainees, who eventually provide critical information for locating bin Laden.

But Rodriguez said the torture scenes were pure fiction.

"Nobody was hung from ceilings. The filmmakers stole the dog-collar scenes from the abuses committed by Army personnel at Abu Ghraib in Iraq. No such thing was ever done at CIA 'black sites,'" he said, highlighting

careful monitoring of the interrogations.

"To give a detainee a single open-fingered slap across the face, CIA officers had to receive written authorization from Washington," Rodriguez said.

"Detainees were given the opportunity to cooperate. If they resisted and were believed to hold critical infor-

mation, they might receive -- with Washington approval -- some of the enhanced techniques, such as being grabbed by the collar, deprived of sleep or, in rare cases, waterboarded."

But even the last technique, a form of simulated drowning and a subject of major controversy, was not as extreme as the on-screen ver-

sion and was never used after 2003, Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez defended the use of secret detainment centers around the world, so-called "black sites," saying they allowed agents "to repeatedly go back to the detainees to check leads, ask follow-up questions and clarify information."

Giant tuna sells for record \$1.8 million in Japan



President of sushi restaurant chain Sushi-Zanmai, Kiyoshi Kimura, displays the 222kg bluefin tuna at his main restaurant

TOKYO (AFP) - A monster bluefin tuna sold for a record-breaking \$1.8 million in the year's first auction at Japan's Tsukiji fish market on Saturday, nearly three times the previous high set last year.

The 222-kilogram (488-pound) fish, caught off Japan's northern city of Oma, fetched a winning bid of 155.4 million yen (about \$1.8 million), said an official at the Tokyo fish market.

The figure dwarfs the previous high of 56.49 million yen paid at last year's inaugural auction at Tsukiji, a huge

working market that features on many Tokyo tourist itineraries.

Saturday's winning bidder was Kiyoshi Kimura, president of the company that runs the popular Sushi-Zanmai chain, who also won the auction for last year's record-breaking bluefin.

"I wanted to meet expectations of my customers who said they wanted to eat Japan's best tuna again this year," Kimura was quoted by Jiji Press as saying after the intense pre-dawn bidding.

"With this good tuna, I

hope to help cheer up Japan," Kimura said.

Based on the price paid -- around 700,000 yen per kilogram -- a single slice of sushi from the monster fish would cost diners as much as 30,000 yen.

But Kimura plans to sell it at a huge loss, for a more realistic price of up to 398 yen per portion, local media reported.

Bluefin is usually the most expensive fish available at Tsukiji.

Decades of overfishing have seen global tuna stocks crash, leading some Western nations to call for a ban on catching endangered Atlantic bluefin tuna.

Japan consumes three-quarters of the global bluefin catch, a highly prized sushi ingredient known in Japan as "kuro maguro" (black tuna) and dubbed by sushi connoisseurs the "black diamond" because of its scarcity.

A piece of "ototo" or fatty underbelly can cost some 2,000 yen at high-end Tokyo restaurants.

Steak on a Stone-Le Petit Café's specialty



In a time when dining choices and critiques are based on value for your dollar, an old favorite, Le Petit Café, still offers one of the best values not only in price, but quality, quantity and ambiance.

Le Petit Café in Palm Beach offers charming surroundings reminiscent of a European outdoor café. Surrounded by Old World gaslights and an abundance of flora, it provides a delightful and romantic setting. In Oranjestad, diners can enjoy a breathtaking view of the harbor; particularly as the sun dips over the horizon and the lights of town set the waters aglow. Taking advantage of their Early Bird Special not only offers a great price for a delicious meal, but put you in the right place at the right time to enjoy Aruba's most spectacular daily performance; our stunning sunsets.

The Early Bird special offers a choice of a full sized chicken breast, a hefty portion of filet mignon or fresh grouper fillet accompanied by a well-stuffed baked potato, rice or french fries. There is a choice of soup or salad as a starter, and ice cream for dessert, all for a modest \$24.95; an unbeatable price for a great meal on Aruba!

Cooking your main course on the stone is a supremely healthy method of preparation, seasoned to perfection

and using no fats or oils. Fish in particular is excellent; extremely moist and tasty. A thick cut of filet mignon usually requires cutting into smaller sections to cook fully, especially if your preference is medium-well to well done.

Le Petit Café is particularly well known for its "Land and Sea" specialty, filet mignon and lobster tail; a gourmet treat when served in their signature fashion. The restaurant also offers a diverse menu of pastas and tempting gourmet appetizers such as seafood crepes, crispy calamari, and escargot. For family members in the mood for something different there are several dishes to choose from, such as chicken parmesan, so a large family with different ideas of what they want for dinner can easily be accommodated.

We all know that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and Le Petit Café has also long been famous for the best value for breakfast on Aruba. They still offer a full breakfast buffet for \$9.95, another unbeatable value!

Le Petit Café is also located in the Paradise Beach Villas, so whether you are staying in Oranjestad, Palm Beach or Eagle Beach, a La Petit Café restaurant can be found only a short stroll away from you resort, a perfect way to begin or end your day!

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest



-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our

crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms en-

ables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

SPORTS

Ronaldo rescues Madrid, Barca cruise to victory



MADRID, Jan 6, 2013 (AFP) - Goalkeeper Iker Casillas came off the bench for 10-man Real Madrid who needed a second half double from Cristiano Ronaldo to beat Real Sociedad 4-3 while leaders Barcelona cruised to a 4-0 win over Espanyol.

Barcelona, whose goals all came in the first-half against their city neighbours, remain 16 points clear of their bitter rivals and 12 ahead of second-place Atletico Madrid, who play Mallorca later Sunday.

Madrid captain Casillas was left out for the second consecutive game but was called upon after just five minutes following a penalty conceded by his replacement Adan Garrido who was red carded.

Xabi Prieto, who was to grab a hat-trick, scored from the spot-kick to equalise after Karim Benzema had put Madrid ahead in the second minute with Sami Khedira then restoring the lead for Jose Mourinho's side after 35 minutes.

Prieto struck again before half-time before Ronaldo came to the rescue with a brace after the restart.

Prieto hit his third with 14 minutes to go but Sociedad also finished with 10 men as Daniel Estrada was given a second yellow card.

After the game Mourinho said he was unconcerned about receiving abuse from the crowd.

"Perfect. Let them whistle me before the match and then support the team as they are

doing. I think the whistles are for leaving Casillas out and also because we are not achieving our aims in the championship," he said.

Madrid faced an injury crisis at the back with Pepe, Fabio Coentrao, Marcelo and Raul Albiol all injured and Sergio Ramos suspended.

They got the perfect start with Khedira finding Benzema in space in the centre of the penalty area and he found the corner with a clinical finish.

But if the Bernabeu crowd were expecting to then see a comfortable victory after such an inconsistent season they were badly mistaken as only three minutes later Adan conceded the penalty for the visitors to draw level.

Adan's poor pass to Ricardo Carvalho went to Carlos Vela who bore down on goal and was upended by the shot-stopper. The referee pointed to the spot and also dismissed Adan which meant Casillas would play after all.

The player nicknamed 'Saint Iker' by Spain fans for his exploits in the recent successes of the national side was unable to make the perfect start as Prieto fired home the penalty.

Madrid went back ahead with Khedira flicking in a shot by Carvalho from the edge of the area but they were never comfortable at the back and Prieto got his second when a Vela strike fell to him and he drove the ball past Casillas.

After the break the game hit a lull before Ronaldo re-

sponded with a double.

At the Camp Nou, Pedro Rodriguez hit a double with Xavi Hernandez and Lionel Messi also scoring in a rampant first half as Barca welcomed coach Tito Vilanova back after cancer surgery.

Vilanova chose to play Andres Iniesta in his three-man attack and leave Alexis Sanchez and David Villa on the bench against Espanyol who were unbeaten in four games under new coach Javier Aguirre.

Iniesta crossed for an unmarked Xavi to put Barca ahead after 10 minutes and Cesc Fabregas pulled the ball back for Pedro to score from close range.

Pedro produced a neat finish to beat Casilla midway through the first half and then Messi struck from the penalty spot after Fabregas was felled by the keeper.

Espanyol wasted a great chance to get a consolation through Juan Albin with eleven minutes to go and then Messi hit the woodwork with a free-kick.

Hirscher wins slalom to set new record



ZAGREB (AFP) - Austrian star Marcel Hirscher won his third World Cup slalom of the season here on Sunday setting a new World Cup record of nine successive podium finishes in both this discipline and the giant slalom.

The 23-year-old - who was recording his 15th career World Cup win - timed 1min 56.17sec over the two legs to beat Sweden's Andre Myhrer by 57 hundredths of a second while another Austrian Mario Matt was third, 1.09sec adrift.

Hirscher, who was winning here for the second successive season, said that he had been particularly touched by compliments paid to him by Croat great Ivica Kostelic.

"I have a lot of respect for



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Milan call on football powers to act on racism

MILAN (AFP) - AC Milan have called for football's authorities to take an official stand against racism in the sport as the controversy surrounding Kevin-Prince Boateng's walk-off continued on Sunday.

Boateng hit the headlines last week when he responded to racist chants by a small group of fans during a friendly against fourth division side Pro Patria by storming off the pitch.

He was followed by his team-mates, prompting a global outpouring of applause

for the German-born Ghanaian international's decision.

World football's ruling FIFA had yet to make an official statement about the incident but in an interview from the United Arab Emirates on Sunday FIFA president Sepp Blatter said Boateng was "wrong" to have walked off the pitch.

Both FIFA and UEFA have previously warned against players walking off the pitch in protest, and Blatter told The National newspaper: "Walk off? No. I don't think that is the solution.

"I don't think you can run away. This issue is a very touchy subject, but I repeat there is zero tolerance of racism in the stadium; we have to go against that."

Milan reacted quickly, declaring: "AC Milan reiterates its firm stance against racism, in whatever shape or form, and calls on the national and international sports bodies to adopt and implement necessary and effective measures."

In the wake of the Boateng incident some observers, including former AC Milan star Clarence Seedorf, had warned that the decision to leave the pitch threatened to "empower" a racist minority.

At Rome's Olympic stadium on Saturday Seedorf's fears rung true when some sections of Lazio's crowd were heard making monkey noises at Cagliari's Colombian striker Victor Ibarbo.

Although the majority of the home crowd jeered and whistled to drown out the racists, Cagliari's director general Francesco Marroccu was forced eventually to inform the fourth official.

The referee halted play momentarily to speak to both team captains and order a message to be relayed over the tannoy to warn fans the game would be suspended if the chants continued.

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Ravens down Colts, set up meeting with Broncos

BALTIMORE, Maryland (AFP) - The Baltimore Ravens, with emotional team leader Ray Lewis back from injury, beat the Indianapolis Colts 24-9 on Sunday to reach the second round of the NFL playoffs.

Lewis, playing for the first time since he tore his right triceps in mid-October -- and days after saying he would retire at the end of the season -- notched 13 tackles to lead a Ravens defense that held the Colts to three field goals by Adam Vinatieri and spoiled the post-season debut of rookie quarterback Andrew Luck.

Ravens defender Paul Kruger also excelled, regis-

tering 2 1/2 of the Ravens' three sacks of Luck and causing one of three turnovers by forcing a fumble.

Baltimore signal-caller Joe Flacco threw a pair of touchdown passes, and Anquan Boldin amassed 145 yards and a touchdown.

The defeat was the end of an emotional season for the Colts, who thrived despite the inexperience of Luck and the lengthy absence of head coach Chuck Pagano as he underwent treatment for leukemia.

Pagano, who spent four years as an assistant coach in Baltimore, returned to the sidelines in time for the final regular-season game and the playoff contest against his old team.

The Ravens, who had been unable to beat the Colts in the playoffs in the years that the Indianapolis offense was run by quarterback great Peyton Manning, earned a second-round meeting with Manning and his new team -- the American Conference top seeds Denver.

T-Wolves' Love breaks hand again

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota, Jan 5, 2013 (AFP) - Minnesota Timberwolves forward Kevin Love has broken a bone in his right hand, the same hand that was broken during the NBA pre-season.

An MRI exam on Saturday showed a break in the third metacarpal -- one of the two bones that he broke during the pre-season in October.

The most recent injury to his shooting hand apparently occurred during the third quarter of Thursday's 101-97 victory over the Nuggets in Denver.

Packers, Texans win playoff openers



GREEN BAY, Wisconsin (AFP) - Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers took full advantage of the depleted Minnesota Vikings Saturday, cruising to a 24-10 victory in the first round of the NFL playoffs.

Rodgers connected with 10 different pass receivers -- matching an NFL post-season record -- as he threw for 274 yards and one touchdown.

John Kuhn rushed for one touchdown and caught a scoring pass for Green Bay, who advanced to a second-round National Conference meeting with the San Francisco 49ers next weekend.

In Saturday's American Conference contest, the Houston Texans defeated the Cincinnati Bengals 19-13 to book a meeting with the New England Patriots.

Already the underdogs, the Vikings went into their contest without starting quarterback Christian Ponder, who was inactive with a right elbow injury.

Ponder was hurt last Sunday in the Vikings' 37-34 win over the Packers in the teams' regular-season finale. He tested his arm in pre-game warm-ups but was declared inactive.

Backup Joe Webb, who had taken just three snaps all season, got the start in place

of Ponder. He threw a 50-yard touchdown pass in the fourth quarter, but was sacked three times and never got the offense clicking.

"They kind of threw him in the fire," Packers linebacker Dezman Moses said. "It's tough when it's the last minute, you're thrown in, you have to start and it's the playoffs."

Star Minnesota running back Adrian Peterson -- who gained more than 400 total yards against the Packers in two regular-season games -- was held to 99 yards.

In Houston Arian Foster rushed for 140 yards and a touchdown as the Texans ousted the Bengals in the first round, for the second time in as many seasons.

Foster added eight catches for 34 yards and became the first player in NFL history to rush for at least 100 yards in

the first three post-season games of his career.

Texans quarterback Matt Schaub, who missed last season's 31-10 playoff win over Cincinnati with a foot injury, completed 29-of-38 passes for 261 yards with one interception, in the first post-season start of his career.

"I'm excited about what we did today," said Schaub, whose team opened the season 11-1 but lost three of their last four regular-season games.

"To do it in front of our home crowd after the way things have gone the last month, to right the ship and come up with a victory."

Houston's defense played a key role, holding Bengals quarterback Andy Dalton to just 127 passing yards with one interception.

Houston's defense forced Cincinnati to go 0-for-9 on third down. Standout defensive performers included cornerback Jonathan Joseph, who intercepted Dalton, and JJ Watt -- who had a sack, two tackles for loss of yards, two quarterback hits and two deflections of passes.

"It's fun to be part of this defense," Watt said, but added that the Texans have every intention of building on the opening-round victory.

"It's a playoff game win. That's tough to accomplish in this league. But we have bigger things on our mind."

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Murray beats Dimitrov to win Brisbane title



BRISBANE, Australia (AFP) - Scotland's Andy Murray called on all his experience to defeat rising Bulgarian star Grigor Dimitrov 7-6 (7/0), 6-4 and retain his Brisbane International title on Sunday.

In a high-class final, Murray came from 4-1 down in the first set and a break in the second to subdue the challenge of the talented Dimitrov.

"I thought the standard of tennis was good today," Murray said, admitting he had to change tactics during the first set after Dimitrov's lightning start.

"There were a lot of high-quality rallies and I had to change a few things. He started the match off very well and was extremely aggressive.

"I needed to change things

around a little bit and I managed to start dictating a lot of points and use my forehand well. So my groundies worked well today."

India to host new franchised golf league

CHENNAI, India (AFP) - Four former Major winners are expected to take part in a new franchise-based golf tournament in India next month, an organiser said.

Darren Clarke, Angel Cabrera, Michael Campbell and Rich Beem are among Major champions who have confirmed their participation in the event, according to Indian golfer Shiv Kapur, one of the event organisers.

The \$400,000 tournament,

The 87-minute victory gave Murray his 25th ATP career title and was the perfect preparation for the Australian Open beginning in just over a week.

But he was made to work hard for the win by Dimitrov, whose playing style and classical one-handed backhand has drawn comparisons with the great Roger Federer.

It was Dimitrov's backhand that initially caused problems for the reigning US Open champion, who had trouble dealing with the amount of slice the Bulgarian was getting on the ball.

christened the Golf Premier League, will be played over three days from February 8 at the Aamby Valley golf course near the western city of Pune, Kapur said.

Eight city-based franchises will hire four golfers each, both foreign and Indian, in an auction in late January to play three rounds over 14 holes, Kapur said.

Each team will comprise a Major winner, an Indian who plays on the professional cir-

Tentative deal to end NHL lockout

NEW YORK (AFP) - The NHL and players have reached agreement on a "framework" of a deal to end their lockout and salvage the season, NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said Sunday.

The announcement came after a marathon 16-hour negotiating session that included both Bettman and NHL Players' Association chief Don Fehr that started on Saturday and spilled over into Sunday.

"Don Fehr and I are here to tell you that we have reached an agreement on the framework of a new collec-

tive bargaining agreement, the details of which need to be put to paper," Bettman said.

"We have to dot a lot of I's and cross a lot of T's. There is still a lot of work to be done, but the basic framework has been agreed upon. We have to go through a ratification process and the Board of Governors has to approve it from the league side and, obviously, the players have to approve it as well."

With a deal, the NHL can avoid losing an entire season for the second time in its history. All of the 2004-05 campaign was lost to a similar bitter battle over financial issues.

Bettman had pinpointed January 19 as the essential start date to save a shortened season. On Sunday, with a written agreement still to be drafted, he said he could not yet offer information about a schedule.

"We will be back to you very shortly, hopefully, later today with more information in that regard," he said.

The league has cancelled 625 games -- up to January 14 -- just over half the planned schedule that was to have started in October.



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